

Matthew 4 NIV

The Calling of the First Disciples

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Heals the Sick

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. ²⁵Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,^[f] Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Being a follower of Jesus

Jesus had 12 Disciples that followed him everywhere. He had picked them especially. Some of them were fishermen and when Jesus called them to be his Disciples he said that they would no longer catch fish but catch people.

Did this mean they were going to put big nets over people?! No! It meant that instead of bringing in fish from the sea that they would bring people into God's Kingdom.

With the words that Jesus spoke to people he told them about God's great love for them. He also put that love into action by healing the sick people that came to him. The 12 Disciples did the same things too, they told people about God's love and helped people.

If we want to be followers of Jesus too we can follow the example of the Disciples and tell our friends, family and other people about how good God is and we can witness to his power in our own lives.